

Page 22, line 21, please change "an A/D" to --the A/D--;

**In the Claims:**

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1. (Amended) A speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus comprising:

a vector sum excited linear prediction (VSELP) encoder [speech signal transmitting encoding circuit] for compressing input speech signals by digital signal processing at a high efficiency,

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a transmitting and receiving circuit for transmitting the compressed speech signals output by the VSELP encoder and for receiving compressed speech signals received from another transmitter and reproducing a corresponding received sound,

noise domain detection means supplied with analytic patterns produced by the VSELP encoder during compression of the input speech signals for detecting a noise level of a noise domain[s] of the input speech signals [using analytic patterns produced by said speech signal transmitting encoding circuit], and

means for controlling the [received] sound volume of the reproduced, received sound responsive to the noise level detected by said noise domain detection means.

2. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said noise domain detection means employs a first-order linear prediction encoding coefficient as [the] an analytic parameter for each frame of a plurality of frames [, said one frame being deemed] and deems a frame to be a noise domain if the first-order linear prediction encoding coefficient is smaller than a pre-set threshold.

3. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said noise domain detection means employs a pitch gain indicating the intensity of pitch components as the analytic parameter for each frame [, said one frame being deemed] and deems a frame to be a noise domain if the pitch gain is within a pre-set range.

4. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein said noise domain detection means employs a pitch gain indicating the intensity of pitch components as the analytic parameter for each frame [, said one frame being deemed] and deems a frame to be a noise domain if the pitch gain is zero.

5. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said noise domain detection means employs a frame power as the analytic parameter for each frame [, said one frame being deemed] and deems a particular frame to be a noise domain if the frame power for [said one] the particular frame is smaller than a pre-set threshold.

6. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein, if an amount of change of the frame power between a current frame and a past frame exceeds a pre-set threshold, said noise domain detection means deems said current frame to be a speech domain, even if said current domain is a noise domain.

7. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein said noise domain detection means detects the noise [detection] domain in view of the value of the analytic parameters over plural consecutive frames.

8. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein [said] a noise level detection means performs filtering on a noise level output of the noise domain detected by said noise domain detection means.

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10. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said noise domain detection means employs a pitch gain indicating the intensity of pitch components as the analytic parameter for each frame [, said one] of a plurality of frames and deems a frame [being deemed] to be a noise domain if the pitch gain is within a pre-set range.

11. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said noise domain detection means employs a pitch gain indicating the intensity of pitch components as the analytic parameter for each frame [, said one] of a plurality of frames and deems a frame [being deemed] to be a noise domain if the pitch gain is zero.

12. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said noise domain detection means employs a frame power as the analytic parameter for each frame [, said one] of a plurality of frames and deems a frame [being deemed] to be a noise domain if the frame power for said one frame is smaller than a pre-set threshold.

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17. (Amended) A speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus having a transmitter and a receiver, comprising noise level detection means for detecting a sound signal level entering a transmitting microphone as a noise level when there is no transmitting speech input at said transmitter, and control means for controlling the reproduction volume of a received sound [volume] from another transmitter responsive to the noise level detected by said noise level detection means.

18. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein said noise [domain] level detection means detects the [speech] sound level entering said transmitting microphone of the transmitter directly after turning on of a power source for talk transmission.

19. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein said noise [domain] level detection means detects the [speech] sound level entering said transmitting microphone when the [speech] sound level in said receiver exceeds a pre-set value.

20. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein said noise level detection means detects the [speech] sound level entering said transmitting microphone at a pre-set time interval in the standby state of said transmitter for signal reception.

21. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 20 [21] wherein said noise [domain] level detection means detects the [speech] sound level entering said transmitting microphone when the [speech] sound level in said receiver exceeds a pre-set value.

22. (Amended) The speech signal transmitting and receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein said noise [domain] level detection means detects the [speech] sound level entering said transmitting microphone when the [speech] sound level in said receiver exceeds a pre-set value.

In the Drawings

The Examiner is requested to approve the proposed drawing changes noted in red on the enclosed sketches. A separate Letter to the Official Draftsman is enclosed.

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the title as not being descriptive. A new title has been substituted which is more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

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